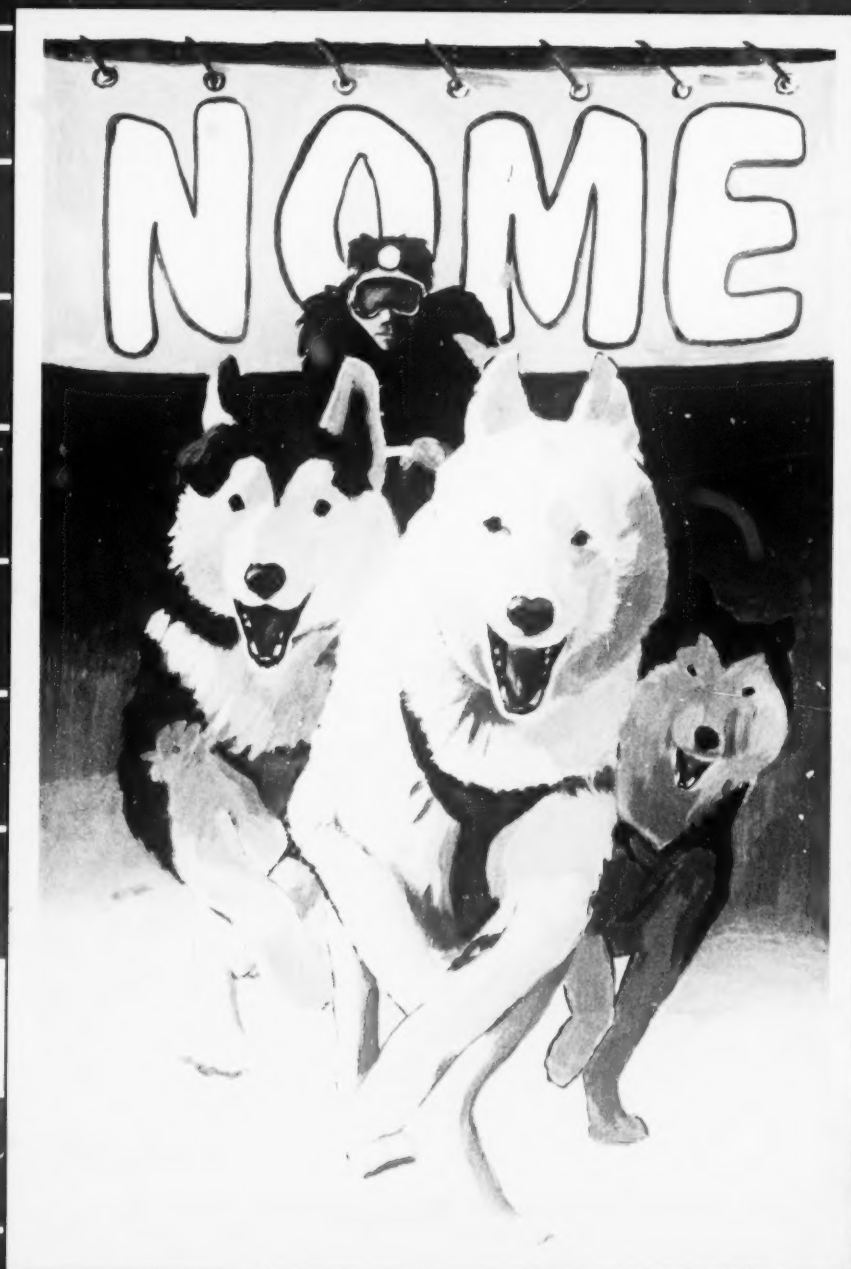


ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



OIL SPILL
ACCIDENT RATE

JUNE JOB GROWTH SLOWS

September 1991

NOME: GOLD & GOVERNMENT RULE THE ECONOMY

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with economic-related issues of Alaska. Opinions and analyses expressed by guest authors may not be consistent with those of the Alaska Department of Labor.

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September 1991
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Alaska State Employment Service



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INSURANCE**
maintaining the foundation of economic security

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Cover design by Jim Fowler



Nome: Gold & Government Rule The Economy

by Holly Stinson



Many think of Nome as a turn-of-the-century gold rush town, whose gold boom faded almost as quickly as it began. In fact, gold mining was the economic activity that kept Nome from becoming a ghost town in the 1920s. Today gold mining continues as an important economic activity in the Nome area. Nome is where people from outlying villages come for goods and services. Tourists arrive in the summer to see the historic town, and the birds and wildlife in the region. Once known worldwide because of its gold beaches, it is now known worldwide as the town where the Iditarod Sled Dog race ends.

The town that gold built

Miners founded Nome in 1898 after discovering gold in the nearby hills. A year later some miners discovered that the beaches were also laden with gold, and the rush was on. People flocked to Nome from all over the world. Soon tents and wooden buildings crowded the town, leaving little room for streets. The 1900 census counted 12,488 people in Nome, making it Alaska's largest city. Estimates put peak population that summer at 20,000.

Once people had mined out the beach gold, population fell rapidly; the next census showed 10,000 fewer Nomeites in 1910. Then gold mining collapsed during World War I, and fewer than 1,000 people resided in Nome by the 1920 census. The mining industry was now using huge dredges operated by many workers instead of small sluice-boxes operated by one or two miners.

Miners made an important discovery in 1925. Cold-water techniques thawed the frozen ground as well as using steam or hot water. This lowered operating costs and al-

lowed these large dredges to operate profitably. They served as Nome's economic base for almost 40 years, until the last one shut down in 1962. Labor and other costs inevitably rose, while the price of gold remained fixed at \$35/ounce. Even cold-water thawing couldn't forever allow profitable operation of the dredges.

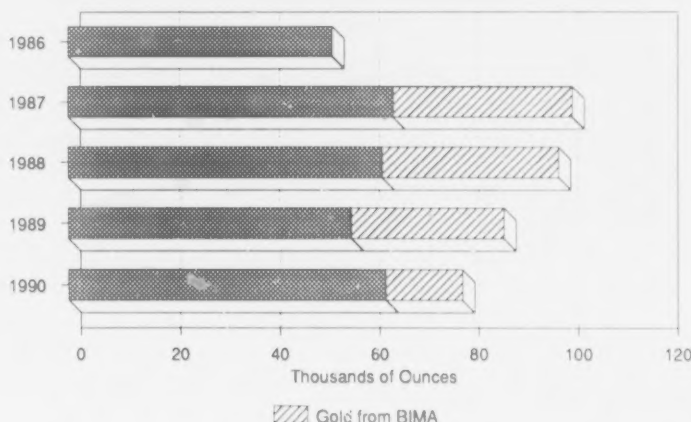
With gold's deregulation in the 1970s, the price increased and gold mining dredges were once more part of the Nome scenery. Mining employment mushroomed in the late 1980s. (See Table 1.) One company, WestGold, even began mining the ocean floor with the world's largest offshore mining dredge in 1986. Production from this 16-story high dredge, nicknamed the BIMA, contributed 35% or more to the Western mining region's total. (See Figure 1.) Even before the BIMA started operating, the Western region was the highest-producing in the state.

The BIMA, however, proved uneconomical. Nome's economy was dealt a blow when WestGold officials decided to sell the BIMA and cease operations after the 1990 mining season. One estimate put the economic loss to Nome at \$6 million a year. The BIMA's

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Figure • 1

BIMA's Effect on Gold Production in the Western Region*



Source: Alaska Department of Natural Resources

*Nome and seven nearby mining districts.

departure meant a loss of more than 100 jobs, many of which were year-round.

Another mining company with on-shore dredges has fared better. Alaska Gold—whose dredges were the first to start up in the mid-1970s—are still operating. The company believes they can continue operating for at least 30 years. In 1990, the second- and third-largest gold producers in the state operated in Nome (the new Greens Creek mine near Juneau is the largest).

Today mining accounts for only 6% of all jobs in the Nome area; however, the mining industry accounts for 13% of total payroll in the region. (See Figure 2.) Not included in the Alaska Department of Labor's employment statistics are the smaller operations with self-employed miners. In addition to direct employment, mining operations in the Nome area indirectly support many more jobs in other sectors of the economy. Mining remains an important ingredient to the city and the entire region.

Government accounts for almost half of all jobs

Although mining was the reason for Nome's founding, today the sector employing the most people is government. Almost half—46%—of all wage and salary jobs in the Nome census area are with the

federal, state or local governments. (Statewide, the figure is 30%.) This includes all education jobs, at the University of Alaska's Northwest campus as well as primary and secondary schools. Nome has its own city school district; the Bering Strait school district, based in Unalakleet, serves the other villages of the area. Only 14% of state government employment is with the college, but 55% of the local government jobs are with the school districts. The local government in the City of Nome also operates a mini-convention center, a visitors center, and a recreation facility.

Rural areas usually have a higher percentage of government jobs. Their economies are smaller yet the population still needs the services provided by the government sector. Both the quantity and the quality of government jobs makes this an important sector: many are high-paying, full-time, year-round jobs.

The Soviet connection revived

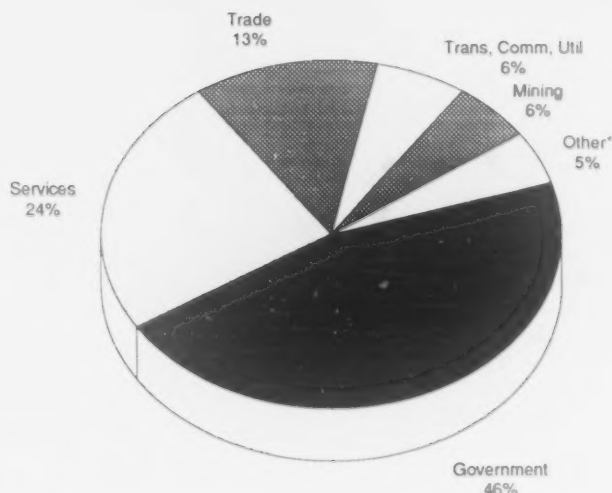
Nome served as a stop for the U.S.'s Lend/Lease program during World War II. Soviet aviators were stationed in Nome to ferry aircraft to the Soviet Union. Nome has once again played host to Soviet citizens as glasnost opened the door for Soviets to visit the U.S., and vice versa. A local Nome airline, Bering Air, made the first American flights to the

Soviet Union in 1988. Now they make two chartered trips a week, flying miners, cultural groups, business people and tourists to the Soviet Union. A similar assortment of passengers arrive in Nome from the Soviet Union. For some, the destination is Nome and the surrounding area; others go on to Anchorage, Seattle or other cities. By the end of 1990, Bering Air had transported about 900 Soviets and 1,100 Americans between the two countries.

Although joint ventures are forming and the future holds promise, the Soviet visitors have not exactly been a boon to Nome's economy so far. They usually have rubles

Figure • 2

**Nome Census Area, 1990
Employment by Industry**



*Other includes construction, finance-insurance-real estate, and manufacturing.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nome Census Area

Government employment highest of all industries 1980-1990

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	Percent of 1990 Employment Within City of Nome
Total	2,130	2,154	2,216	2,447	2,649	2,751	2,682	2,740	2,837	2,828	2,906	72.5
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	62	89	144	271	238	163	98.8
Construction	33	39	65	88	86	55	35	30	39	56	53	60.4
Manufacturing	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	143	176	160	173	186	201	231	307	221	176	186	73.1
Wholesale Trade	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Retail Trade	249	286	303	294	303	311	327	321	330	331	376	60.6
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	120	54	54	79	83	103	76	73	71	74	83	33.7
Services	602	575	468	512	536	582	583	596	582	650	703	76.8
Government	849	913	1,018	1,194	1,346	1,424	1,328	1,261	1,319	1,294	1,327	73.2
Federal	161	145	132	157	134	111	99	94	94	96	98	95.9
State	178	193	220	244	243	246	242	215	217	230	234	97.4
Local	511	575	667	793	969	1,067	987	952	1,008	968	995	23.6

* Nondisclosable

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

to spend, which are not convertible to any other currency. Several Nome merchants accept them in trade for goods and services as a gesture of good will. Eventually, they hope the ruble will become a legitimate international currency; but so far, their only value has come from selling them to visitors. Tourists began asking to purchase them as souvenirs after seeing the signs in merchants' windows, "we accept many rubles." One would think these rubles could be used on return visits to the Soviet Union. Most Soviet businesses, however, are insisting on dollars, not rubles, for purchases of goods and services there.

Soviet visitors have added a new dimension to Nome's already-thriving tourist industry. The local convention and visitors bureau estimates 10,000-12,000 people have visited Nome each year for the past five years. About half are on package tours during the summer; the other half are independent travelers who

come for bird-watching, tourism, or to attend conferences. In March of each year, the City of Nome hosts the largest basketball tournament in the world and a golf tournament played on what are likely the world's most unique greens—the frozen Bering Sea.

Another draw at this time of year is the end of the Iditarod Sled Dog race. This world-famous dog race traces its roots to 1925. That year the discovery of cold-water thawing gave Nome an economic base in gold mining for 40 years. Another 1925 event was to have an economic impact far into the future. A diphtheria outbreak resulted in the now-famous dash by dogsled to get serum to Nome. A long distance sled dog race along that same route, the Iditarod Trail, ends in Nome during March of each year. The mushers participating in that race, along with news reporters and other visitors, swell Nome's population and coffers during March. (See Figure 3.)

Table • 2

Nome Census Area Population grows by 27 percent

	1990 Census	1980 Census	Percent Change 1980 to 1990	Age in 1990		
				Under 5	65 & Over	Median Age
Nome Area Census Area	8,288	6,537	27	1,073	419	26.4
Brevig Mission	198	138	43	35	9	22.9
Council	8	19	-58	n/a	n/a	n/a
Diomedé (Inalik)	178	139	28	27	6	22.7
Elim	264	211	25	43	14	22.8
Gambell	525	445	18	75	22	24.2
Golovin	127	87	46	21	8	24.3
Koyuk	231	188	23	33	14	23.8
Nome	3,500	2,544	38	369	166	29.2
St. Michael	295	239	23	42	11	19.9
Savoonga	519	491	6	70	23	24.4
Shaktoolik	178	164	9	31	15	22.9
Shishmaref	456	394	16	66	13	21.3
Solomon	6	4	50	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stebbins	400	331	21	72	20	17.7
Teller	151	212	-29	24	6	25.8
Unalakleet	714	623	15	89	41	26.3
Wales	161	133	21	28	12	27.1
White Mountain	180	125	44	26	15	27.9
Balance of the Nome Census Area	211	73	189	n/a	n/a	n/a
State of Alaska	550,043	401,851	37	54,897	22,369	27.4

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Bering Sea closes Nome's sea link

Nome's location has played a role in its economic fortunes. It is on the south coast of the Seward Peninsula, unprotected from the storms of the Bering Sea and without a deep-water harbor. This has had two effects on the city:

1. Bering Sea storms nearly obliterated the section of town nearest the shore on more than one occasion, and
2. freight had to be lightered to shore by intermediary, shallow-draft craft.

The storm devastation resulted in several proposals to move the town to a better (sheltered) location with

a harbor. Instead, the federal government built a granite sea wall in 1949-51 to protect the city. The fact that freight had to be lightered added to already high shipping costs and limited Nome's development as a port. A new port facility, which includes a causeway enabling medium-draft vessels to unload directly, was constructed in 1982-86. Nome still doesn't have a deep-water port, so much of the freight is still lightered. And because the Bering Sea freezes over, no freight can arrive by sea for six months of each year.

Unlike most of rural Alaska, the Nome area has a system of roads which has spurred mineral development by allowing easy access to otherwise remote areas. This makes it possible to drive to Teller, Council, Solomon and Taylor. The Native regional

Nome Census Area Population in 1990 by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin

	Sex		Race					Hispanic Origin (of any race)	
	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian	Eskimo	Aleut	Other Race	
Nome Census Area	4,480	3,808	2,023	9	87	6,026	35	108	106
Brevig Mission	96	102	15	0	0	182	1	0	0
Diomede (Inalik)	100	78	10	0	1	163	3	1	0
Elim	148	116	22	0	0	237	5	0	0
Gambell	300	225	20	0	1	504	0	0	0
Golovin	66	61	9	0	1	117	0	0	1
Koyuk	128	103	11	0	2	216	1	1	0
Nome	1,902	1,598	1,574	6	68	1,745	11	96	95
St. Michael	157	138	26	0	1	268	0	0	1
Savoonga	260	259	25	0	0	493	1	0	1
Shaktoolik	96	82	10	0	0	164	4	0	0
Shishmaref	241	215	24	0	1	429	1	1	0
Stebbins	203	197	20	1	2	376	1	0	1
Teller	87	64	20	0	1	130	0	0	0
Unalakleet	377	337	125	1	6	574	4	4	4
Wales	90	71	15	0	0	143	0	3	2
White Mountain	95	85	20	1	2	154	2	1	0

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

corporation, Bering Straits, sells gravel from various pit sites for the Seward Peninsula's 300-mile road system.

Bering Straits Regional Corporation is involved in a myriad of other businesses, too. They have exploration agreements with various mining operators, including one in the Soviet Union. In a joint venture with Nome's village corporation, Sitnasauk, they operated a rock quarry that provided granite during development of the Red Dog mine north of Kotzebue. The granite also went into the construction of Nome's causeway. In the future, it could provide granite for other seawalls along Alaska's western coast.

Services garners most private employment

The City of Nome serves as a regional hub for outlying villages. Even though less than half the

area's population is within the city, more than three-fourths of the services jobs are located there. (See Table 1.) Almost half of private employment in the Nome census area is with this eclectic group of employers, which includes membership organizations such as the regional corporation, firms offering business and personal services, hotels, and legal and health care providers.

One large health care provider, the Norton Sound Health Corporation, is the largest private employer in the Nome area. One in ten jobs in the Nome census area, whether public or private, are with this corporation. They can't be dismissed as the proverbial big fish in a small pond, either; they ranked as Alaska's 69th largest private employer in 1990. As the local contractor to provide health care to Alaska Natives, they receive half of their operating funds through the U.S. Indian Health Service. In addition to operating the hospital in Nome, they have employees in every Nome area village. In fact, 19% of their employment is outside the City of Nome.

Table • 4

Nome Census Area Household characteristics

	Number of Family Households				No. of Nonfamily House- holds	Persons Per House- hold	Persons per Family
	Total	Married couples	Total	Female householder no husband present* With related Children			
Nome Census Area	1,723	1,081	346	271	648	3.41	4.07
Brevig Mission	40	15	11	9	13	3.74	4.08
Diomedé (Inalik)	33	18	6	5	8	4.34	4.73
Elim	58	31	15	13	15	3.62	4.10
Gambell	98	59	14	12	22	4.38	5.04
Golovin	25	15	5	4	17	3.02	4.20
Koyuk	48	27	15	13	13	3.79	4.42
Nome	751	503	144	106	368	2.98	3.62
St. Michael	55	35	12	11	14	4.28	4.85
Savoonga	96	64	15	13	20	4.47	5.16
Shaktolik	38	31	3	3	8	3.87	4.42
Shishmaref	93	49	25	20	26	3.83	4.41
Stebbins	74	46	15	11	12	4.65	5.12
Teller	31	15	10	8	13	3.43	3.94
Unalakleet	161	105	33	25	46	3.45	4.01
Wales	38	20	9	7	11	3.29	3.76
White Mountain	39	19	8	6	19	3.10	3.77
State of Alaska	132,837	106,079	18,229	14,625	56,078	2.80	3.33

* Families are classified by type as either a married-couple family or other family which is further classified into "male householder" (a family with a male householder and no wife present) or "female householder" (a family with a female householder and no husband present).

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The smallest industry in the Nome area includes the oldest employer, the Nome Nugget newspaper, founded in 1901. In many coastal areas of the state seafood processing is a large portion of the local economy's manufacturing sector; but not in Nome. Although there are no processors, some commercial fishing takes place. The 1990 summer season netted close to half a million dollars worth of salmon; August's red king crab fishery pulled in approximately \$578,000. The most valuable species in the Nome area is herring, which brought in more than \$3.5 million in the 1990 two-day opening.

Subsistence is part of Nome's economy

Although commercial fishing is a small part of the area's economy, subsistence fishing is important to many residents. A 1983 study found 84% of households in the City of Nome harvested salmon. According to a 1984 survey, 45% of the village population in the Bering Straits region relied on subsistence hunting and fishing for most or all of their food.

The existence of this non-cash economy is why income statistics for the Nome area do not tell the whole story. Per capita income in 1989 was \$15,103, an 8.8% increase over 1988 but among the lowest in

the state. This compares to a statewide per capita figure of \$21,375 in 1989, which is a 12.4% growth rate over 1988. The non-cash economy in the region, however, is not reflected in this income data and plays an import role in the area's economy.

Unemployment statistics for the Nome census area also do not tell the whole story. The rate for 1990 dropped below 9% (to 8.9%, the lowest in many years). Missing from the official definition of the unemployed, however, are those discouraged workers who have given up looking for work. To be included in the labor force, a person must be employed or have actively sought work in the past four weeks. In small towns residents are likely to know if a job opportunity exists. Therefore, they may well not have actively sought work in the past four weeks and not be included in the labor force.

Nome's population is younger, more male, than state

The Nome census area includes the City of Nome and 17 outlying villages. Table 2 shows the population counted in the 1990 census and the change from the 1980 census. According to the census, half of the City of Nome's residents are Alaska Natives or American Indians. This proportion rises to almost three-fourths when the entire census area is taken into account (see Table 3) and is much higher than the state's 15.6%.

The Nome census area also has a higher male:female ratio (54.1% male vs. 52.7% statewide) and a younger median age. The census also found that the average number of persons per family and per household is higher in the Nome region than Alaska as a whole. (See Table 4.)

The Nome region added people at a slower rate during the 1980s than Alaska, but the City of Nome's population increase of almost 1,000 closely tracked the statewide growth rate of 37%. Only two towns in the region, Teller and Council, lost population over the past decade.

The outlook for Nome's future

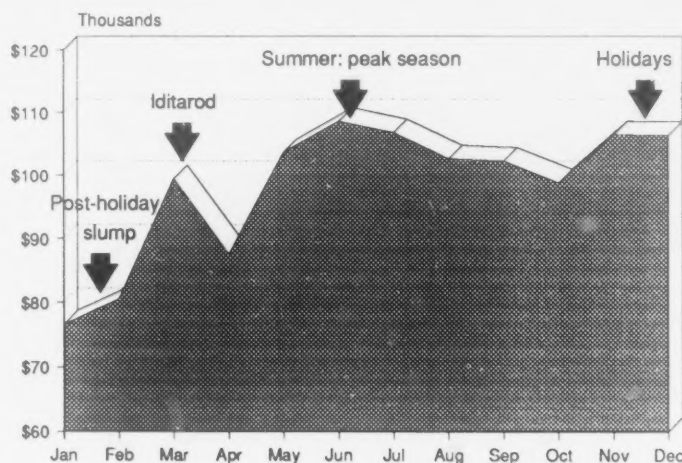
Although the Western Region has led the state in gold production for several years, this will likely change during 1991 for two reasons. One is that gold production in the Western Region should decline in 1991 since WestGold's BIMA, along with some other operators, will be gone. The second reason is that gold production in other regions of the state should increase in 1991, mainly from the Valdez Creek mine in the MatSu Borough and the Greens Creek mine near Juneau.

This is not to say the Western Region could not once again lead the state in gold production in the future. Much exploration work in the area continues, and the federal government is holding a lease sale for gold mining on offshore tracts, the first of its kind. The price of gold is always the big question mark in this industry.

Currently there is no oil and gas activity in the region. Two companies purchased leases in Norton Sound off the coast of Nome at a 1983 sale. They drilled some exploratory wells, and there was talk of the City of Nome becoming a logistics and support center for offshore drilling activities. The companies, however, relinquished the leases. The federal government may hold another oil and gas lease sale, but it would be mid-1996 at the earliest.

Figure • 3

The Four Seasons of Nome 1990



Source: 1990 city sales tax revenues, City of Nome.

Tourism, already a thriving industry, could become an even larger part of the economy. The Iditarod Sled Dog race receives increasing media coverage each year. The number of Soviet tourists, and Americans passing through Nome on their way to the Soviet Union, may increase in the coming years. The future will likely hold a continuing connection with the Soviet Union for Nome. What sort of connection is unknown. The most ambitious is talk of a physical connection, by building a tunnel under the Bering Sea similar to the one now being constructed under the English Channel. Whether or not a project of this magnitude is ever undertaken, Nome will continue to reap some benefits from its location.

The limitations of its location, though, will also remain. Nome still doesn't have a deep-water or sheltered harbor, and even with one water transportation would not be responsible for six months of each year. An often-proposed transportation project which would create a surface link year-round is construction of a Trans-Alaska highway between Nome and Fairbanks.

Government jobs should continue as the economic backbone of Nome's economy. The share of state and local jobs may shift, since the future might well mean a small state operating budget and fewer state jobs. Certain services will still be necessary, however, no matter who provides them.

1990 Census Bulletin

Where the Singles Are

Place	Total Adult Population	Total Adult Singles	% Adult Single	Total Single Men	Total Single Women	Single Men Per 100 Single Women
ALASKA	400,222	164,929	41%	92,555	72,374	128
Anchorage city	168,632	70,008	42	37,055	32,953	112
Barrow city	2,339	1,216	52	677	539	126
Bethel city	3,218	1,638	51	886	752	118
College CDP	8,519	4,145	49	2,312	1,833	126
Fairbanks city	22,751	9,699	43	5,627	4,072	138
Homer city	2,704	1,159	43	599	560	107
Juneau city	19,935	8,469	42	4,290	4,179	103
Kenai city	4,568	1,794	39	952	842	113
Ketchikan city	6,315	2,902	46	1,548	1,354	114
Kodiak city	4,837	2,150	44	1,340	810	165
Kotzebue city	1,785	926	52	489	437	112
Nikiski CDP	1,896	580	31	326	254	128
Nome city	2,502	1,363	54	811	552	147
Palmer city	1,999	949	47	441	508	87
Petersburg city	2,349	895	38	523	372	141
Seward city*	2,153	1,178	55	805	373	216
Sitka city	6,297	2,542	40	1,409	1,133	124
Soldotna city	2,492	1,020	41	480	540	89
Sterling CDP	2,710	830	31	512	318	161
Unalaska city**	2,767	1,652	60	1,280	372	344
Valdez city	3,081	1,332	43	797	535	149
Wasilla city	2,767	1,094	40	555	539	103

CDP=Census Designated Place

Only communities with a total population greater than 2,500 were used in this table.

Population figures used in this table reflect those persons aged 15 years and older.

Prepared by: Alaska Department of Labor, State Data Center, July 1991

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

* Seward includes 418 people in correctional institutions.

** Unalaska includes 1,614 people in noninstitutional group quarters.

Accident Rate for Oil Spill Cleanup not Unusual

by James Wilson

The Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef on March 24, 1989. Within 7 days, the discharged crude oil contaminated much of the western half of Prince William Sound. Within 20 days, the oil slick reached far out of the sound to the entrance of Cook Inlet, and eventually traveled over 400 miles reaching the Shelikof Strait, east of Kodiak Island. A cleanup effort of massive proportions took place during the following months. During 1989, spill related employment for the prime oil company contractors reached more than 11,000 workers, with over 21 million hours of work. This article presents some of the statistical data on worker injuries and illnesses reported from the oil spill cleanup.

Beginning in March, the Alaska Division of Workers' Compensation started receiving claims from work associated with the cleanup. To date, 518 time loss claims, and two fatality claims, have been received for cases occurring in 1989. The Alaska Workers' Compensation division also received 837 non-time loss claims for 1989 oil spill-related work. Of the total 1,797 cases on file for 1989, 440 are classified as being outside of the juris-

1989 Valdez Oil Spill Claims by Age of Worker

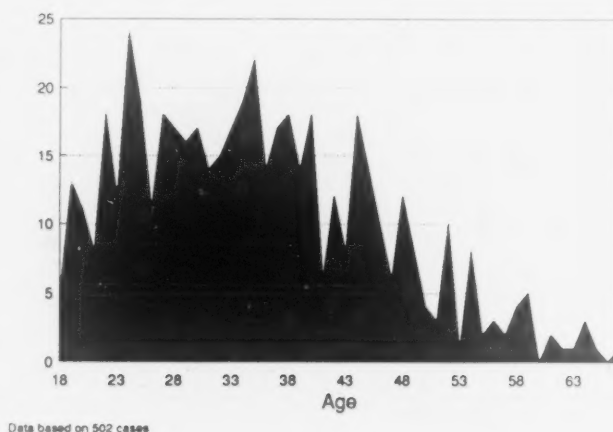


Figure • 1

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Time Loss Case Rates Alaska 1989 Oil Spill Cleanup Project

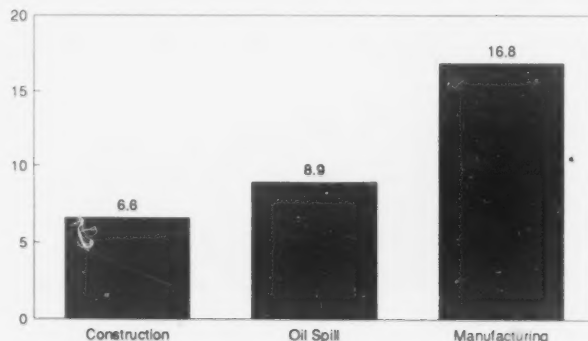


Figure • 2

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

James Wilson is a labor economist with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is based in Juneau.

Reported Injuries and Illnesses by Nature of Injury or Illness Alaska

SDS Code	Nature of Injury or Illness	1989 Oil Spill Time Loss		1987 Time Loss	
		Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
	Total	518	100.0	9,661	100.0
10	Amputation or Enucleation	0	0.0	35	0.4
11	Asphyxia, Strangulation, Drowning, Suffocation	0	0.0	5	0.1
12	Burn (Heat)	4	0.8	191	2.0
13	Burn (Chemical)	1	0.2	66	0.7
14	Concussion	4	0.8	121	1.3
15	Infective or Parasitic Disease	15	2.9	11	0.1
16	Contusion, Crushing, Bruise	41	7.9	1,024	10.6
17	Cut, Laceration, Puncture	18	3.5	1,041	10.8
18	Dermatitis	5	1.0	42	0.4
19	Dislocation	13	2.5	196	2.0
20	Electric Shock, Electrocution	2	0.4	8	0.1
21	Fracture	18	3.5	792	8.2
22	Effect of Exposure to Low Temp	2	0.4	13	0.1
23	Hearing Loss, or Impairment	0	0.0	11	0.1
24	Effect of Environmental Heat	0	0.0	1	0.0
25	Hernia, Rupture	6	1.2	132	1.4
26	Inflammation of Joint, Tendon, Muscle	10	1.9	187	1.9
27	Poisoning, Systemic	14	2.7	78	0.8
29	Radiation Effect	0	0.0	16	0.2
30	Scratch, Abrasion	10	1.9	322	3.3
31	Sprain, Strain	187	36.1	4,859	50.3
32	Hemorrhoid	0	0.0	2	0.0
33	Hepatitis (Serum and Infective)	1	0.2	5	0.1
40	Multiple Injury	7	1.4	118	1.2
50	Effect of Change in Atmospheric Pressure	0	0.0	1	0.0
51	Cerebrovascular System	3	0.6	10	0.1
52	Complication Peculiar to Medical Care	1	0.2	1	0.0
53	Eye, Other Disease of the Eye	3	0.6	12	0.1
54	Mental Disorder	1	0.2	30	0.3
55	Neoplasm, Tumor	0	0.0	3	0.0
56	Nervous System, Condition of	7	1.4	93	1.0
57	Respiratory System, Condition of	63	12.2	25	0.3
58	Symptom and Ill-Defined Condition	32	6.2	19	0.2
90	No Injury or Illness	4	0.8	1	0.0
95	Damage to Prosthetic Device	1	0.2	2	0.0
99	Other Injury/Disease & Nonclassifiable	34	6.6	188	1.9
	Not Coded	11	2.1	0	0.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

diction of the Workers' Compensation program. Most of these cases are duplicates of the cases filed under the Longshore and Harborworkers Act.

As mentioned above, there were two fatalities on the oil spill cleanup project in 1989. One was a 46 year old electrician who suffered a heart attack. The other case was a 48 year old kitchen helper who was crushed in a dumbwaiter shaft. Both cases were aboard vessels. Neither of these workers died while removing oil from the environment.

Of the 1,797 Workers' Compensation filed cases, 93% were from persons who listed Alaska as their state of residence. People from 93 Alaskan cities and communities were represented in the Workers' Compensation cases. Of the 1,679 Alaskan cases, 31% came from workers who resided in the coastal cities nearest the spill. 34% of the cases filed were from Anchorage area residents and 13% from the Fairbanks area. Only 19 cases were from residents of the southeast region.

Women accounted for 26% of the time loss cases associated with the spill cleanup project. By way of contrast, 23% of all private sector time loss cases filed for 1989 were from women workers. The sex of the worker was coded for only 510 of the total 1,797 cases filed with Workers' Compen-

Reported Injuries and Illnesses by Part of Body Affected Alaska

sation (only time loss cases are coded for sex).

Of the 1,797 cases filed with Workers' Compensation, 70% were from employees of the two prime spill cleanup contractors. Another 13% came from the largest company which provided support services for the cleanup.

A rough time loss case rate for the oil spill cleanup was calculated to be 8.9 cases per 100 workers. This figure was developed using counts of total time loss cases filed (Ak. Workers' Comp. and L&HA) and hours worked by all contractors for the project. The time loss case rate of 8.9 places the spill cleanup project rate in between the 1989 rates for construction (6.6) and manufacturing (16.8). This should not be seen as unusual or unexpected, considering the scale and nature of the project, the working conditions, time constraints, and the logistical difficulties involved.

Readers should note that this time loss case rate for the cleanup project is not an official comparison to the published OSHA recordable time loss case rates because of differing methodologies. It does provide a rough means of comparison, however. It should also be stressed that the 8.9 rate includes all the lower risk service and support activities of the cleanup project.

SDS Code	Part of Body Affected	1989 Oil Spill Time Loss		1987 Time Loss	
		Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
	Total	518	100.0	9,661	100.0
	Head	36	6.9	757	7.8
10	Head, Unspecified	3	0.6	36	0.4
11	Brain	3	0.6	122	1.3
12	Ear	4	0.8	21	0.2
13	Eye	15	2.9	381	3.9
14	Face	11	2.1	138	1.4
15	Scalp	0	0.0	38	0.4
16	Skull	0	0.0	6	0.1
19	Head, Multiple	0	0.0	15	0.2
20	Neck	5	1.0	288	3.0
	Upper Extremity	62	12.0	2,141	22.2
30	Upper Extremity, Unspecified	0	0.0	31	0.3
31	Arm	12	2.3	389	4.0
32	Wrist	11	2.1	354	3.7
33	Hand	15	2.9	409	4.2
34	Finger	18	3.5	876	9.1
39	Upper Extremity, Multiple	6	1.2	82	0.8
	Trunk	124	23.9	3,637	37.6
40	Trunk, Unspecified	1	0.2	6	0.1
41	Abdomen	21	4.1	223	2.3
42	Back	75	14.5	2,707	28.0
43	Chest	10	1.9	237	2.5
44	Hip	4	0.8	89	0.9
45	Shoulder	13	2.5	363	3.8
49	Trunk, Multiple	0	0.0	12	0.1
	Lower Extremity	130	25.1	2,041	21.1
50	Lower Extremity, Unspecified	1	0.2	25	0.3
51	Leg	67	12.9	923	9.6
52	Ankle	41	7.9	525	5.4
53	Foot	17	3.3	369	3.8
54	Toe	3	0.6	145	1.5
59	Lower Extremity, Multiple	1	0.2	54	0.6
70	Multiple Parts	31	6.0	547	5.7
	Body System	113	21.8	225	2.3
80	Body System, Unspecified	27	5.2	89	0.9
81	Digestive System	7	1.4	14	0.1
82	Excretory System	7	1.4		
83	Musculo-Skeletal System	0	0.0	1	0.0
84	Nervous System	4	0.8	35	0.4
85	Respiratory System	65	12.5	55	0.6
86	Circulatory System	1	0.2	28	0.3
88	Other Body System	2	0.4	3	0.0
99	Nonclassifiable	6	1.2	25	0.3
	Not Coded	11	2.1	0	0.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Reported Injuries and Illnesses by Source of Injury or Illness Alaska

SDS Code	Source of Injury or Illness	1989 Oil Spill Time Loss		1987 Time Loss	
		Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
	Total	518	100.0	9,661	100.0
01	Air Pressure	0	0.0	2	0.0
02	Animal, Insect, Etc	2	0.4	26	0.3
03	Animal Product	0	0.0	8	0.1
04	Bodily Motion	52	10.0	822	8.5
05	Boiler, Pressure Vessel	14	2.7	67	0.7
06	Box, Barrel, Container	61	11.8	1,270	13.1
07	Building or Structure	4	0.8	228	2.4
08	Ceramic Item	0	0.0	9	0.1
09	Chemical, Chemical Compound	12	2.3	145	1.5
10	Clothing	2	0.4	18	0.2
11	Coal and Petroleum Product	11	2.1	20	0.2
12	Cold (Atmospheric, Environmental)	46	8.9	14	0.1
13	Conveyor	0	0.0	34	0.4
14	Drug & Medicine	0	0.0	2	0.0
15	Electric Apparatus	2	0.4	62	0.6
17	Flame, Fire, Smoke	1	0.2	46	0.5
18	Food Product	2	0.4	217	2.2
19	Furniture, Fixture, Etc	7	1.4	323	3.3
20	Glass Item, Nec	0	0.0	51	0.5
22	Hand Tool, Not Powered	8	1.5	535	5.5
23	Hand Tool, Powered	4	0.8	193	2.0
24	Heat, (Atmospheric, Environmental)	0	0.0	1	0.0
25	Heating Equipment, Nec	1	0.2	36	0.4
26	Hoisting Apparatus	8	1.5	105	1.1
27	Infectious, Parasitic Agent, Nec	25	4.8	30	0.3
28	Ladder	3	0.6	32	0.3
29	Liquid	3	0.6	60	0.6
30	Machine	6	1.2	417	4.3
40	Mechanical Power Trans Apparatus	0	0.0	2	0.0
41	Metal Item	21	4.1	849	8.8
42	Mineral Item, Metallic, Nec	0	0.0	1	0.0
43	Mineral Item, Nonmetallic, Nec	6	1.2	53	0.5
44	Noise	0	0.0	7	0.1
45	Paper and Pulp	0	0.0	20	0.2
46	Particle (Unidentified)	0	0.0	78	0.8
47	Plant, Tree, Vegetation	0	0.0	84	0.9
48	Plastic Item, Nec	0	0.0	12	0.1
49	Pump and Prime Mover	3	0.6	41	0.4
50	Radiating Substance and Equipment	0	0.0	18	0.2
52	Silica	0	0.0	1	0.0
53	Scrap, Debris, Waste Material, Nec	4	0.8	26	0.3
54	Steam	2	0.4	17	0.2
55	Textile Item, Nec	0	0.0	16	0.2
56	Vehicle	20	3.9	765	7.9
57	Wood Item	13	2.5	353	3.7
58	Working Surface	75	14.5	1,667	17.3
60	Person	15	2.9	433	4.5
61	Recreation and Athletic Equipment	0	0.0	35	0.4
62	Rubber Product	0	0.0	53	0.5
65	Ice, Snow	0	0.0	4	0.0
88	Miscellaneous, Nec	6	1.2	105	1.1
98	Nonclassifiable	68	13.1	248	2.6
	Not Coded	11	2.1	0	0.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Tables 1 through 4 contain injury and illness characteristic data for oil spill related time loss cases filed with the Alaska Division of Workers' Compensation. Each of these tables also contains the coded data for all time loss cases in 1987, the last full year of coded data now available (coding of 1989 time loss cases is in progress). This was done to provide a comparative percent distribution for the time loss injury characteristic data. For example, Table 1 shows that 50% of 1987 time loss cases were due to sprains and strains. Sprains and strains accounted for 36% of the spill related time loss cases.

Reported Injuries and Illnesses by Type of Accident or Exposure Alaska

The prevalence of work related illnesses on the oil spill cleanup is notable in the Alaska Workers' Compensation case data. Table 2 shows 12.5% of the oil spill time loss cases involved the respiratory system. Working in a cold environment was a major source of injury/illness listed in Table 3 (8.9% versus normally 0.1%). In fact, the major source of all respiratory cases was due to cold weather. Petroleum was the source of injury/illness for only 3% of all cases.

SDS Code	Type of Accident or Exposure	1989 Oil Spill Time Loss		1987 Time Loss	
		Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
	Total	518	100.0	9,661	100.0
01	Struck Against	32	6.2	668	6.9
02	Struck By	34	6.6	1,470	15.2
03	Fall From Elevation	28	5.4	699	7.2
05	Fall on Same Level	63	12.2	1,160	12.0
06	Caught In, Under, Between	16	3.1	453	4.7
08	Rubbed or Abraded	9	1.7	382	4.0
10	Bodily Reaction	52	10.0	822	8.5
12	Overexertion	91	17.6	3,148	32.6
13	Contact with Electric Current	1	0.2	10	0.1
15	Contact with Temp Extreme	61	11.8	214	2.2
18	Contact with Radiation, Caustic, Etc	24	4.6	255	2.6
20	Transportation Accident, Not Motor Vehicle	0	0.0	31	0.3
30	Highway Motor Vehicle, Unspecified	1	0.2	12	0.1
31	Highway Motor Vehicle, Moving	2	0.4	51	0.5
32	Highway Motor Vehicle, Standing	0	0.0	31	0.3
33	Highway Motor Vehicle, Noncollision	0	0.0	58	0.6
40	Exposure to Noise	0	0.0	11	0.1
50	Explosion	0	0.0	6	0.1
60	Nonhighway Motor Vehicle, Unspecified	0	0.0	38	0.4
61	Nonhighway Motor Vehicle, Moving	2	0.4	1	0.0
62	Nonhighway Motor Vehicle, Standing	0	0.0	1	0.0
63	Nonhighway Motor Vehicle, Noncollision	0	0.0	68	0.7
89	Accident Type, Nec	9	1.7	68	0.7
99	Nonclassifiable	82	15.8	76	0.8
	Not Coded	11	2.1	0	0.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Job Growth Slows To A Snail's Pace In June

by Holly Stinson

June marks the beginning of summer in Alaska: the salmon season gets underway, the tourists are out in force, and construction projects are in full swing. This June, however, the salmon went largely uncaught, the tourist trade varied depending on region, and construction projects employed fewer workers

than in 1990. Still, the economy managed to eke out a growth rate of 0.3%, with 800 more jobs than June 1990. (See Table 1.) Over-the-month increases were also smaller than in the past two years. This June's seasonal increase was less than 10,000 while 12,000 or more jobs were added from May to June in the past two years.

Table 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work — Alaska

	Changes from:				
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	253,100	243,200	252,300	9,900	800
Goods-producing	45,100	40,300	45,600	4,800	-500
Mining	12,400	11,900	11,900	500	500
Construction	12,300	10,400	12,700	1,900	-400
Manufacturing	20,400	18,000	21,000	2,400	-600
Durable Goods	3,700	3,600	4,700	100	-1,000
Lumber & Wood Products	2,700	2,700	3,700	0	-1,000
Nondurable Goods	16,700	14,400	16,300	2,300	400
Seafood Processing	12,700	10,600	12,400	2,100	300
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	208,000	202,900	206,700	5,100	1,300
Transportation	22,900	21,300	22,400	1,600	500
Trucking & Warehousing	2,800	2,600	2,800	200	0
Water Transportation	1,700	1,500	1,700	200	0
Air Transportation	7,200	6,600	7,100	600	100
Communications	3,600	3,600	3,400	0	200
Trade	48,900	47,000	48,600	1,900	300
Wholesale Trade	8,700	8,600	8,500	100	200
Retail Trade	40,200	38,400	40,100	1,800	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	6,200	5,800	6,100	400	100
Food Stores	6,900	6,700	6,800	200	100
Eating & Drinking Places	14,200	13,500	14,400	700	-200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,700	10,400	10,500	300	200
Services & Misc.	55,400	52,700	54,300	2,700	1,100
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,800	5,500	6,900	1,300	-100
Government	70,100	71,500	70,900	-1,400	-800
Federal	18,700	18,400	19,500	300	-800
State	21,100	20,900	21,500	200	-400
Local	30,300	32,200	29,900	-1,900	400

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1990

p/ denotes preliminary estimates

r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

All regions posted over-the-month gains, but over-the-year comparisons varied. Anchorage had the strongest growth. Fewer construction jobs slowed Fairbanks' economy; total employment is just above last year. The Southwest and Northern regions are also on the plus side, while the Southeast and Gulf Coast regions have fewer jobs this June than June 1990.

Unemployment climbs

On the other side of the equation, the unemployment rate increased slightly from 7.6% to 7.8%. (See Table 4.) This compares to a 6.6% rate in June 1990 and is the widest gap yet between last year's and 1991's rates. (See Figure 1.) It is also the first time since 1986 that the rate increased from May to June. It is not, however, all that unusual. There was a May to June increase in 6 of the last 12 years. No matter how good or bad the employment situation is, the fact

remains that June is the month when students and graduates flood the labor market. If they don't already have a job but are looking for work, they are included as unemployed.

In addition to June's new entrants to the labor force, bleak employment prospects elsewhere are pushing people to head north looking for work. June is traditionally a time when workers come to Alaska seeking jobs, but there are more of them this year because of the recession elsewhere. Many are from the western states, closest to Alaska. This year California may be contributing a higher than usual number of migrants to Alaska because of their poor employment possibilities. California's unemployment rate has been 2 or more percentage points above last year's for each month of 1991, and June's rate was 3% above year ago. In Alaska, an increase in the unemployment rate means hundreds more people are unemployed; in California it means hundreds of thousands.

Other statistics point to an increase in new residents. The number of people in Alaska claiming unemployment insurance benefits on wages earned in another state was almost 1,000 higher this June than last. For the year ending June 1991, the Alaska Dept. of Labor's Employment Service had an increase in applicants of 8% over the previous year.

Alaska's unemployment rates are climbing, but differences exist between regions. The Haines Borough had the dubious distinction of having the highest unemployment rate in June, jumping from May's 14.5% to 20.4%. A shutdown of the local lumber mill is the main reason. Almost every other region had a higher unemployment rate this June than in June 1990.

Where are the tourists?

Southeast is one area of the state wondering where the tourists are this year. Cruise ship and tour traffic appears at or above last year's level, but many are reporting fewer-than-usual independent travelers. Some reports from

Fairbanks, the Kenai Peninsula, and Anchorage also point to a downturn in independent travelers.

A poor run of king salmon on the Kenai Peninsula, necessitating a catch-and-release sport fishery, is one reason for the lower number of visitors there. Other reasons may explain why there seem to be fewer independent travelers in other parts of the state. With much of the U.S. in a recession, the nationwide trend this year is toward trips close to home. This may have cut into the number of people planning to visit Alaska. Another reason could be that trip planning, which often takes place several months ahead of time, fell this year during the Persian Gulf crisis, a time of uncertainty for many.

Even with these reports, employment statewide in the three sectors affected by tourism—services, trade and transportation—are all showing over-the-year increases. (See Figure 2.) Other tourism indicators won't be available for many months, so the 1991 season is still in question.

Question marks in the salmon and timber industries

The other big question mark every summer is the health of Alaska's salmon industry. This June's over-the-year increases in seafood processing employment cannot be attributed to salmon operations. Processors

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**Alaska's Unemployment Rate for June 1991
Above June 1990**

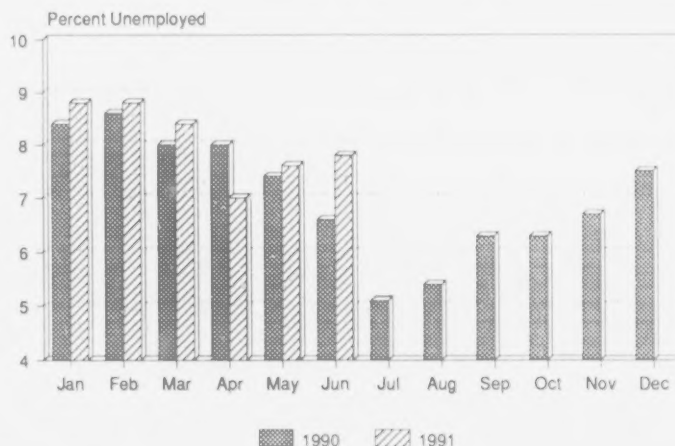


Figure • 1

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Municipality of Anchorage

	Changes from:				
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	117,700	113,950	114,950	3,750	2,750
Goods-producing	14,100	12,300	13,400	1,800	700
Mining	4,100	4,200	3,700	-100	400
Construction	7,100	5,650	6,950	1,450	150
Manufacturing	2,900	2,450	2,750	450	150
Service-producing	103,600	101,650	101,550	1,950	2,050
Transportation	12,150	11,600	11,850	550	300
Trucking & Warehousing	1,750	1,650	1,700	100	50
Water Transportation	350	400	350	-50	0
Air Transportation	4,300	4,050	4,400	250	-100
Communications	2,100	2,100	1,900	0	200
Trade	27,050	26,400	26,600	650	450
Wholesale Trade	6,150	6,050	6,050	100	100
Retail Trade	20,900	20,350	20,550	550	350
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	3,250	3,000	3,200	250	50
Food Stores	3,250	3,250	3,200	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	7,900	7,650	7,800	250	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,650	6,550	6,550	100	100
Services & Misc.	31,000	30,150	29,950	850	1,050
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,800	2,350	2,700	450	100
Government	26,750	26,950	26,600	-200	150
Federal	10,450	10,350	10,700	100	-250
State	7,600	7,700	7,350	-100	250
Local	8,700	8,900	8,550	-200	150

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	Changes from:				
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,750	27,600	28,650	1,150	100
Goods-producing	2,600	2,200	2,850	400	-250
Mining	200	200	200	0	0
Construction	1,700	1,400	1,950	300	-250
Manufacturing	700	600	700	100	0
Service-producing	26,150	25,400	25,800	750	350
Transportation	2,150	2,000	2,050	150	100
Trucking & Warehousing	450	400	450	50	0
Air Transportation	500	500	450	0	50
Communications	300	300	300	0	0
Trade	6,550	6,300	6,450	250	100
Wholesale Trade	800	750	800	50	0
Retail Trade	5,750	5,550	5,650	200	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	600	550	600	50	0
Food Stores	850	800	850	50	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,450	2,350	2,450	100	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	850	800	850	50	0
Services & Misc.	6,600	6,250	6,500	350	100
Government	10,000	10,050	9,950	-50	50
Federal	3,250	3,200	3,250	50	0
State	4,150	4,000	4,200	150	-50
Local	2,600	2,850	2,500	-250	100

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	Changes from:				
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	125,400	121,400	122,750	4,000	2,650
Goods-producing	14,700	12,850	13,800	1,850	900
Mining	4,250	4,350	3,700	-100	550
Construction	7,450	5,950	7,200	1,500	250
Manufacturing	3,000	2,550	2,900	450	100
Service-producing	110,700	108,550	108,950	2,150	1,750
Transportation	12,800	12,250	12,500	550	300
Trade	28,900	28,250	28,600	650	300
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,100	7,000	7,000	100	100
Services & Misc.	32,650	31,550	31,550	1,100	1,100
Government	29,250	29,500	29,300	-250	-50
Federal	10,550	10,400	10,850	150	-300
State	8,450	8,450	8,250	0	200
Local	10,250	10,650	10,200	-400	50

Interior Region

	Changes from:				
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	33,400	32,100	33,400	1,300	0
Goods-producing	2,950	2,550	3,150	400	-200
Mining	400	400	400	0	0
Construction	1,850	1,500	2,050	350	-200
Manufacturing	700	650	700	50	0
Service-producing	30,450	29,550	30,250	900	200
Transportation	2,450	2,200	2,400	250	50
Trade	7,050	6,800	6,900	250	150
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	900	950	50	0
Services	7,600	7,000	7,400	600	200
Government	12,400	12,650	12,600	-250	-200
Federal	3,950	3,850	4,000	100	-50
State	4,550	4,400	4,700	150	-150
Local	3,900	4,400	3,900	-500	0

Table • 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	Changes from:		
			6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,050	34,250	36,650	800	-1,600
Goods-producing	6,550	6,450	7,550	100	-1,000
Mining	350	350	350	0	0
Construction	1,350	1,250	1,350	100	0
Manufacturing	4,850	4,850	5,850	0	-1,000
Durable Goods	2,250	2,350	3,200	-100	-950
Lumber & Wood Products	2,200	2,250	3,150	-50	-950
Nondurable Goods	2,600	2,500	2,650	100	-50
Seafood Processing	1,500	1,400	1,550	100	-50
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	28,500	27,800	29,100	700	-600
Transportation	2,950	2,750	3,200	200	-250
Trade	5,850	5,550	5,900	300	-50
Wholesale Trade	600	600	650	0	-50
Retail Trade	5,250	4,950	5,250	300	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,150	1,150	1,100	0	50
Services & Misc.	6,250	5,800	6,500	450	-250
Government	12,300	12,550	12,400	-250	-100
Federal	2,250	2,100	2,300	150	-50
State	5,600	5,650	5,700	-50	-100
Local	4,450	4,800	4,400	-350	50

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	Changes from:		
			6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,350	24,950	27,650	2,400	-300
Goods-producing	8,650	7,100	8,800	1,550	-150
Mining	1,200	1,150	1,250	50	-50
Construction	1,150	1,000	1,300	150	-150
Manufacturing	6,300	4,950	6,250	1,350	50
Seafood Processing	5,200	3,950	5,200	1,250	0
Service-producing	18,700	17,850	18,850	850	-150
Transportation	2,200	2,050	2,150	150	50
Trade	4,750	4,350	4,750	400	0
Wholesale Trade	650	600	600	50	50
Retail Trade	4,100	3,750	4,150	350	-50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	600	600	50	50
Services & Misc.	5,000	4,750	5,000	250	0
Government	6,100	6,100	6,350	0	-250
Federal	600	500	700	100	-100
State	1,900	1,850	1,950	50	-50
Local	3,600	3,750	3,700	-150	-100

Northern Region

	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	Changes from:		
			6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,500	14,700	15,350	800	150
Goods-producing	6,600	5,900	6,650	700	-50
Mining	6,150	5,500	6,100	650	50
Service-producing	8,900	8,800	8,700	100	200
Government	4,400	4,550	4,300	-150	100
Federal	300	250	350	50	-50
State	400	400	350	0	50
Local	3,700	3,900	3,600	-200	100

Southwest Region

	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	Changes from:		
			6/90	5/91	6/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	16,700	16,250	16,550	450	150
Goods-producing	5,850	5,400	5,550	450	300
Seafood Processing	5,450	5,050	5,100	400	350
Service-producing	10,850	10,850	11,000	0	-150
Government	5,800	-6,250	6,050	-450	-250
Federal	1,300	1,200	1,350	100	-50
State	550	550	550	0	0
Local	3,950	4,500	4,150	-550	-200

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1990

p/ denotes preliminary estimates
r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

in Southeast and Gulf Coast employed the same or fewer than last year. (See Table 2.) Facing a glut of canned pink salmon and corporate financial problems, a large Cordova processing plant remained closed this June. New processing facilities in the Southwest region accounted for all of the growth in this industry.

Fishing strikes in Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet, boycotts in Prince William Sound and Southeast, and closures because of low escapement counts all point to a harvest that will not set any records. If there is any impact on processing employment, it would begin showing up in July's data.

Even though seafood processing jobs were slightly above last June's, it was not enough to offset the decline in timber industry employment. This is why manufacturing was one of three sectors in June showing employment declines compared to June 1990. Weak prices and low demand are cited as reasons why there were 1,000 fewer timber industry jobs this year. Almost all of the missing jobs were in logging. Pending lawsuits add a note of uncertainty to future timber supply in Southeast. On the bright side, the industry decline in Southeast is not mirrored in South-central Alaska's fledgling wood products sector. The new sawmill in Seward recently reported its first profit.

Government employment declines

The third sector showing over-the-year employment declines in June was government. Federal jobs show a decrease of 800 from June 1990. More than half of these missing jobs, though, were short-lived, temporary ones with the Census Bureau. Missing census workers account for some of the decline in every region of the state.

There are also fewer state jobs this June. One reason is that this year's fires were less severe, so fewer firefighters were on the payroll. Another is a planned shrinkage of state government.

Summary: Job growth slows while unemployment climbs

Over-the-year employment growth slowed to just 0.3% in June. Although all regions posted seasonal job increases from May, Anchorage showed the strongest growth this June compared to June 1990. Fairbanks, Southwest and Northern regions eked out growth while Gulf Coast and Southeast had fewer jobs this June than last.

Unemployment rates in 1991 have been higher than the comparable months last year. June's rate of 7.6% is the largest gap yet this year. June is traditionally a time when job seekers head north. This June there are a higher than usual number because of the recession

Figure • 2

Fewer Jobs In Some Industries This June

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

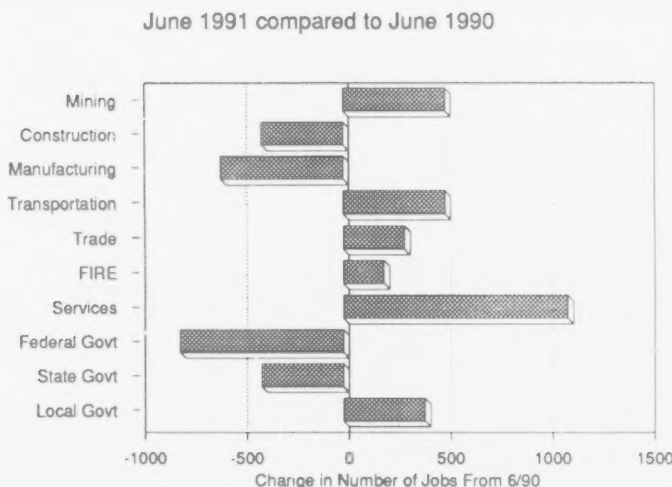


Table • 3

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90
Mining	\$1,177.85	\$1,129.59	\$1,150.03	51.3	48.9	49.0	\$22.96	\$23.10	\$23.47
Construction	1,122.04	1,067.11	1,191.70	46.5	44.5	48.8	24.13	23.98	24.42
Manufacturing	558.44	548.05	572.76	48.1	43.6	44.4	11.61	12.57	12.90
Seafood Processing	459.14	429.87	449.45	50.4	44.5	44.5	9.11	9.66	10.10
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	680.68	597.89	608.60	37.9	34.5	35.8	17.96	17.33	17.00
Trade	385.88	366.24	365.72	34.3	32.7	33.8	11.25	11.20	10.82
Wholesale	627.10	579.74	583.12	40.8	39.6	39.4	15.37	14.64	14.80
Retail	334.59	319.49	320.46	32.9	31.2	32.6	10.17	10.24	9.83
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	422.31	389.42	401.37	36.5	33.6	33.7	11.57	11.59	11.91

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1990

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

in much of the Lower 48. Students and graduates also swell the unemployment ranks in June.

The summer's tourism and salmon industries have many question marks attached to them this year. The number of independent travelers appeared to be lagging; those travelling in organized groups or on cruise ships were reported to be as high as ever.

June saw the beginning of fishing strikes and boycotts called because of low prices. Processing employment was above year-ago only because of new facilities in Southwest that handle other species.

The single largest drag on June to June employment growth was the absence of almost 1,000 jobs in the timber industry in Southeast. Other over-the-year declines were in federal and state government employment.

Table • 4

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate %			Employment		
	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90	p/ 6/91	r/ 5/91	6/90
Alaska Statewide	264,552	259,635	264,942	20,637	19,825	17,591	7.8	7.6	6.6	243,915	239,810	247,351
Anch.-MatSu Region	136,181	134,048	133,902	9,522	9,003	7,926	7.0	6.7	5.9	126,659	125,045	125,976
Municipality of Anchorage	120,078	118,276	117,935	7,452	6,991	5,950	6.2	5.9	5.0	112,626	111,285	111,985
MatSu Borough	16,103	15,772	15,967	2,070	2,012	1,976	12.9	12.8	12.4	14,033	13,760	13,991
Gulf Coast Region	32,982	31,194	33,841	3,086	3,167	2,833	9.4	10.2	8.4	29,896	28,027	31,008
Kenai Peninsula Borough	20,407	19,170	20,918	2,089	1,997	1,919	10.2	10.4	9.2	18,318	17,173	18,999
Kodiak Island Borough	7,605	7,320	7,635	625	777	396	8.2	10.6	5.2	6,980	6,543	7,239
Valdez-Cordova	4,970	4,704	5,288	372	393	518	7.5	8.4	9.8	4,598	4,311	4,770
Interior Region	37,052	36,293	37,014	3,792	3,651	3,196	10.2	10.1	8.6	33,260	32,642	33,818
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	31,997	31,332	31,978	3,158	3,029	2,655	9.9	9.7	8.3	28,839	28,303	29,323
Southeast Fairbanks	2,074	2,050	2,067	231	241	193	11.1	11.8	9.3	1,843	1,809	1,874
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,981	2,911	2,969	403	381	348	13.5	13.1	11.7	2,578	2,530	2,621
Northern Region	8,545	8,424	8,663	905	822	821	10.6	9.8	9.5	7,640	7,602	7,842
Nome	3,202	3,143	3,171	408	362	302	12.7	11.5	9.5	2,794	2,781	2,869
North Slope Borough	3,038	2,996	3,096	148	121	130	4.9	4.0	4.2	2,890	2,875	2,966
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,305	2,285	2,396	349	339	389	15.1	14.8	16.2	1,956	1,946	2,007
Southeast Region	36,276	36,060	37,860	2,539	2,407	2,077	7.0	6.7	5.5	33,737	33,653	35,783
Haines Borough	1,007	936	903	205	136	52	20.4	14.5	5.8	802	800	851
Juneau Borough	16,018	15,922	16,926	761	703	744	4.8	4.4	4.4	15,257	15,219	16,182
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,849	6,812	7,073	597	576	442	8.7	8.5	6.2	6,252	6,236	6,631
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,779	2,813	2,885	291	331	246	10.5	11.8	8.5	2,488	2,482	2,639
Sitka Borough	4,193	4,131	4,423	219	167	208	5.2	4.0	4.7	3,974	3,964	4,215
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,712	1,754	1,820	159	204	172	9.3	11.6	9.5	1,553	1,550	1,648
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,718	3,692	3,830	307	290	213	8.3	7.9	5.6	3,411	3,402	3,617
Southwest Region	13,516	13,616	13,662	793	775	738	5.9	5.7	5.4	12,723	12,841	12,924
Aleutians East Borough	940	947	954	9	7	8	1.0	0.7	0.8	931	940	946
Aleutians West	2,642	2,662	2,688	33	28	37	1.2	1.1	1.4	2,609	2,634	2,651
Bethel	5,241	5,262	5,277	418	295	378	8.0	7.5	7.2	4,823	4,867	4,899
Bristol Bay Borough	509	502	514	17	5	14	3.3	1.0	2.7	492	497	500
Dillingham	2,416	2,440	2,446	112	115	106	4.6	4.7	4.3	2,304	2,325	2,340
Wade Hampton	1,768	1,803	1,783	204	225	195	11.5	12.5	10.9	1,564	1,578	1,588

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates
r/ denotes revised estimates
Benchmark: March 1990

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.

- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.



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